

NETWORK's COVID-19 Response: Updates and Our Work Ahead

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#NETWORKWebinar @NETWORKLobby



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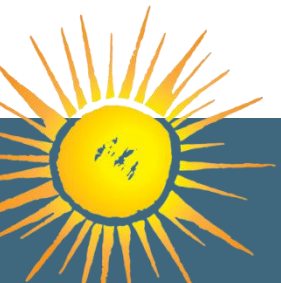
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Overview

Today we will be discussing:

- ☀️ Current COVID-19 State of Play
- ☀️ Congressional Action
 - ☀️ Package 1
 - ☀️ Package 2
 - ☀️ Package 3
- ☀️ Requests for Package 4
- ☀️ What you can do

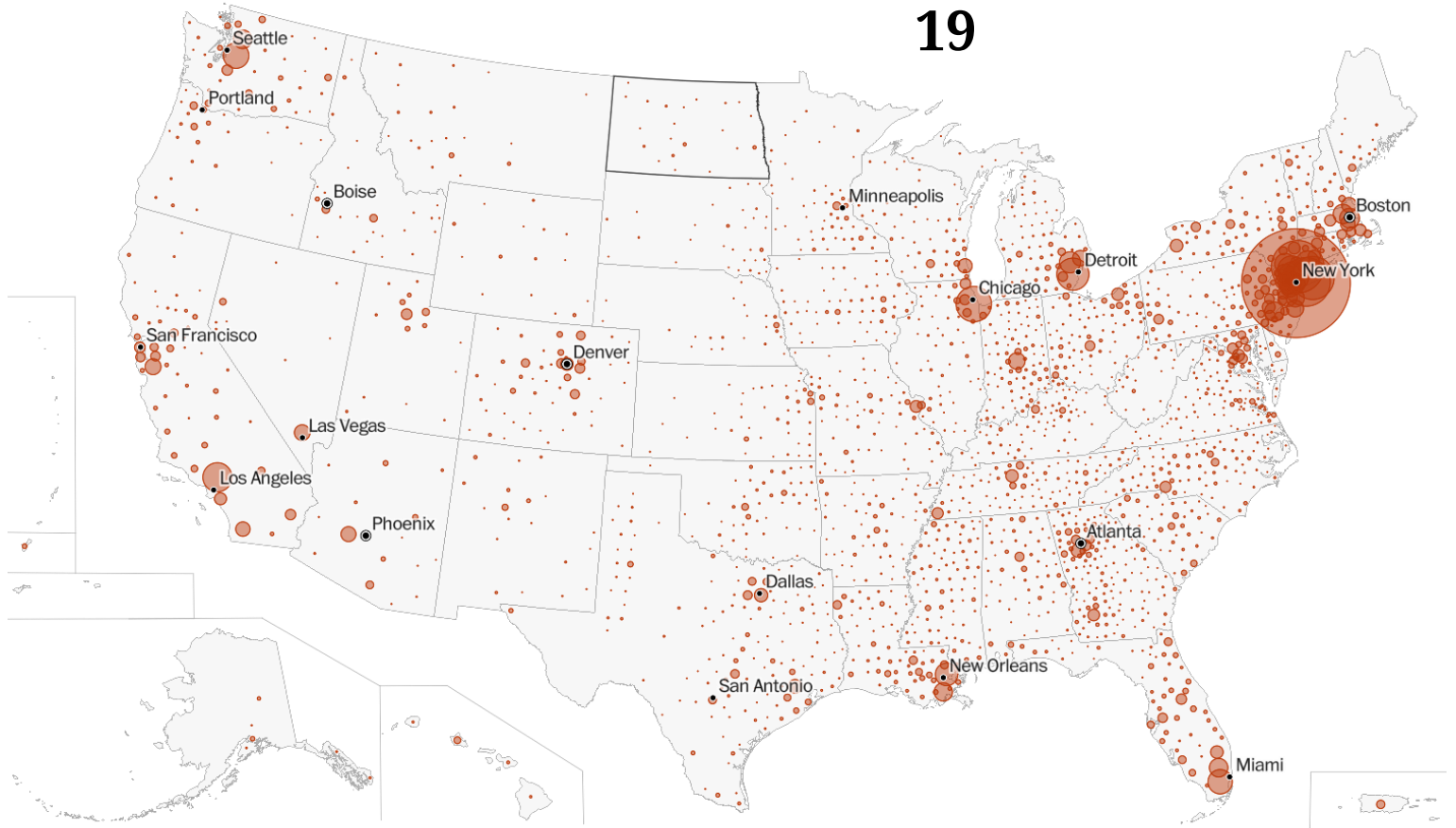
There will be time for questions at the end. Remember to type your questions in the Q&A Box throughout the presentation!



State of Play

189,595 COVID-19 Cases

4,100 Deaths due to COVID-19



Economic State of Play

An unprecedented rise in unemployment



Source: US Employment and Training Administration




COVID-19 and Communities of Color

- ☀️ **Communities of color have been largely affected as a result of COVID-19**
 - ☀️ Higher mortality rates for People of Color
 - ☀️ Lack of adequate resources to impoverished neighborhoods
 - ☀️ Economic and employment hardships
 - ☀️ Media placing blame for COVID-19 on the Asian population
 - ☀️ Heighted Racism towards Asian Americans
 - ☀️ Less access to quality healthcare facilities



Congressional Response

Congress has passed three COVID-19 emergency packages

-  1st package: \$8.3 billion emergency funding package
-  2nd package: Families First Coronavirus Response Act
-  3rd package: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act



Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Act

- ☀️ **Helps State, Local Governments & Tribes** to Conduct Public Health Preparedness (\$2.2 billion)
- ☀️ **Boosts Research & Development** (\$3 billion)
- ☀️ **Aids Healthcare Preparedness** by funding medical supplies and equipment (\$1 billion)
- ☀️ **Provides Telehealth Flexibility for Medicare**
- ☀️ **Assistance for Families & Small Business** including Extending LIHEAP & Mental Health Treatment



Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- ☀️ **Free Testing for Coronavirus** for those with Private Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, VA, FEHBP & Tricare
- ☀️ **Strengthens Food Assistance Programs** for Families and Seniors including support for food banks
- ☀️ **Safeguards Medicaid Benefits** to expand coverage
- ☀️ **Enhances Unemployment Aid** for laid off and furloughed workers
- ☀️ **Establishes Paid Leave** for most workers should they get sick, need to take care of a family member or self isolate to prevent the spread of COVID-19



The CARES Act

- ☀️ **Hospitals, Health Care Providers and Equipment** (\$100 billion)
 - ☀️ Includes \$1.3 billion in emergency funds to Community Health Centers
- ☀️ **Unemployment Insurance**
 - ☀️ Includes Pandemic Assistance for 4 months for workers who normally do not receive unemployment, such as gig workers and the self-employed
- ☀️ **Direct Support to Families**
 - ☀️ \$1,200 cash payments (\$2,400 for joint filers) plus \$500 per child
 - ☀️ Must file 2018 or 2019 tax return
 - ☀️ Parents must have Social Security Numbers



The CARES Act (cont.)

☀️ Assistance for the Homeless

- ☀️ \$7 billion in investments for affordable housing and homeless assistance programs

☀️ Small, Medium and Large Business

- ☀️ Small, non-profits and self-employed can receive up to \$10 million in loans
- ☀️ Medium & Large Business can receive loans but restricts use of loan for stock buybacks & excessive CEO compensation & requires maintaining employment






What's Next? 4th COVID-19 Package

- ☀️ **Congressional Leadership & President Trump** beginning to discuss COVID 4.0
- ☀️ **House of Representatives to Lead** on Development of Package 4





4th COVID-19 Legislative Package Priorities

Health

-  Increase Medicaid funding to states in order to pay for COVID treatment and expenses ; increase funding for CHCs
-  Ensure testing, treatment coverage for everyone uninsured including the undocumented and incarcerated
-  Allow inmates to be eligible for Medicaid prior to release

Democracy = Voting

-  Seek \$2 billion in funding for the November elections to provide essential election security measures and comprehensive vote-by-mail accessibility
-  Allow for absentee voting for all with pre-paid postage



4th COVID-19 Legislative Package Priorities

☀️ **Immigration**

- ☀️ Ensure all have access to COVID cash benefits
- ☀️ Ensure extension of work permits for those with DACA and TPS

☀️ **Food/Nutrition**

- ☀️ Expand SNAP allotments by 15%

☀️ **Housing/Infrastructure**

- ☀️ Increase funding for affordability programs, renter's relief tied mortgage forbearance, access to internet connectivity, and public transportation

☀️ **Paid Leave**

- ☀️ Expand paid leave to for health care workers and emergency responders



Response to COVID-19

QUESTIONS?

We will answer questions that have been asked by our webinar participants and those joining us on Facebook Live!



Influencing Congress During COVID-19

☀️ **Members are Home!**

- ☀️ Both the Senate and House are out, and policy work is happening
- ☀️ Congress Exploring Virtual Work & Voting

☀️ **Home Contact is Key**

☀️ **Innovation**

- ☀️ Virtual Lobbying in the Time of COVID



Next Steps

- ☀️ **Check out our resources** On COVID-19 on our website
- ☀️ **Sign up for in-district phone meetings with your Senators!**
<https://networklobby.org/meetingsignups/>
- ☀️ **We'll be back after Easter** with materials for your meetings!



COVID-19 and Communities of Color

☀️ Racial Justice Resources

- ☀️ [To Help Stem Coronavirus, Lift Sanctions on Iran," Common Dreams](#)
- ☀️ [A Cornered Trump Scapegoats China, Inviting Racist Violence," In These Times](#)
- ☀️ [Coronavirus: Fear of Asians rooted in long American history of prejudicial policies," UC Berkeley News](#)
- ☀️ ["Public health expert says African Americans are at greater risk of death from coronavirus," The Undefeated](#)
- ☀️ ["Latinos projected to bear economic brunt of coronavirus," The Hill](#)
- ☀️ ["Coronavirus Compounds Inequality and Endangers Communities of Color," American Progress](#)
- ☀️ ["Joint Center Convenes Black Organizations for COVID-19 Discussion with CBC Chair Karen Bass," Joint Center](#)
- ☀️ ["Race and Ethnicity," Urban Institute](#)
- ☀️ ["Stop Using The Coronavirus As An Excuse To Be Racist," Forbes](#)



Thank you! Stay Safe and Healthy!

Questions? Email **Meg Olson**,
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